

**MINUTES
MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PIONEERS PARK - PRAIRIE CENTER BUILDING
MALINSLOVSKIS AUDITORIUM
3201 SOUTH CODDINGTON AVENUE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Matt Olberding, reporter for the *Journal Star*
Ron Busch, citizen
John Boehm, Lincoln Independent Business Association

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 11:49 a.m..

NOTE: Documentation titled *Mid-Year Budget Retreat, January 19, 2006*, (Exhibit C) is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

AGENDA ITEM

3 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

a. Mid-Year Status of Expenditure Budget

Kroeker gave an overview of the expenditure budget for fiscal year 2006 (Exhibit C) which included the following:

- ▶ Projected need for additional appropriations (page 1-1)
- ▶ November 30, 2005 report of expenditures versus budget (page 1-2)
- ▶ November 30, 2005 report of payroll costs versus budget (page 1-4)
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 versus Fiscal Year 2005 five month expenditure comparison (page 1-6)
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 versus Fiscal Year 2005 five month payroll comparison (page 1-7)
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 overtime comparison to budget (page 1-8)

- ▶ Juvenile Court Boarding Contracts (page 1-9)
- ▶ General Assistance six months expenditures (page 1-10)
- ▶ Primary care medical program (page 1-11)

Kroeker indicated the mid-year budget looked good, noting a 6.85 percent increase as compared to 2005.

b. Mid-Year Status of Revenue Budget

Kroeker gave an overview of the following documents:

- ▶ November 30, 2006 report of revenues versus budgets (page 2-1)
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 versus Fiscal Year 2005 five months revenue comparison (page 2-2)
- ▶ Inheritance collections comparison (page 2-3)
- ▶ Register of Deeds fees comparison (page 2-4)
- ▶ Interest income comparison (page 2-5)
- ▶ Group health insurance fund (page 2-6)

c. Other Issues

(Workman exited at 1:10 p.m..)

Kroeker gave an overview of the following documents:

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 Building Fund budget (page 3-1)
- ▶ Keno Fund collections (page 3-2)
- ▶ History of Keno expenditures (page 3-3)
- ▶ History of Keno Fund transfers (page 3-4)
- ▶ Keno Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2006 (page 3-5)
- ▶ 12 year summary of indigent defense costs (page 3-6)
- ▶ 7 year detail of indigent defense costs (page 3-7)
- ▶ 6 year history of year end fund balances (page 3-8)
- ▶ Debt Service by Fiscal Year (page 3-9)
- ▶ Leases with NACO (page 3-11)

e. Letters from Agencies

Kroeker briefly reviewed the following documentation:

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2006 requested and project additional appropriations (page 5-1)
- ▶ Mid-Year review letter to agencies (page 5-2)
- ▶ Response from agencies (601 to 066)

DISCUSSION ITEMSa. Cars for Community Mental Health Center

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to allow Community Mental Health Center to purchase two, 2006 Ford Tauruses out of their budget and to appropriate additional funds at the end of the year if necessary. Heier, Hudkins, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Workman was absent from voting. Motion carried.

b. Medical Transportation Initiative

Stevens suggested referring the item to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC).

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded to refer the Medical Transportation Initiative to the Joint Budget Committee. Stevens, Heier, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

c. Transition Planning for Budget & Fiscal Office

Item moved forward on the agenda.

d. Public Defender Child Support Program

See item 3D.

e. Road Tax Under Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-1904

Kroeker briefly discussed and distributed documentation regarding the effect of levying for roads under Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-1904 versus the General Fund levy (Exhibit 1).

He indicated he thought the City would request an opinion of the Attorney General at some point. Kroeker stated there were approximately eight counties in the State which would not be impacted by Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-1904.

Heier stated he felt there were several issues which should be reviewed, such as tracking the amount of money spent within the three-mile jurisdiction and funding of the Rural to Urban Roadway Transition Streets Program (RUTS).

Board consensus was to not respond in writing to a letter from Mayor Seng regarding the County's road tax levy.

ADDITION TO AGENDA

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to add a letter from Ron Busch, dated January 13, 2006, regarding the County personnel benefit plan (Exhibit 2). Stevens, Workman, Heier, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Ron Busch, 7333 South 35th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, reviewed his suggestions regarding possible changes to the County personnel benefit plan.

The Chair noted they would keep the suggestions in mind as they enter into labor negotiations.

f. Represented/Unrepresented Classified Employee Salaries

Eagan stated the County Board received a letter from Don Thomas, County Engineer, regarding salary differential between AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) and the Unrepresented (Exhibit 4). He indicated no action is required.

Discussion followed regarding Represented versus Unrepresented employees.

g. Youth Services Director

Eagan indicated the intent stated by Board was to offer Michelle Schindler the position and recommended the Board negotiate a salary with her.

Stevens stated he was concerned that all the applications had not been reviewed. He suggested Schindler be appointed as Interim Director for six months with a salary increase of six to seven percent after which a performance review would be conducted.

Stevens also asked if the department should be merged with the Corrections Department under a single director.

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to hire Michelle Schindler as Youth Services Director, at an annual salary of \$76,260, effective January 1, 2006. Heier, Hudkins, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

h. Salaries for Directors

Eagan distributed a packet of information titled *Directors Salary Information* (Exhibit 3) noting that the Board had tentatively approved a three percent cost of living with merit increases following reviews and a market adjustment of \$2,000 each for Gary Chalupa, Veterans Service Officer and Richard Ringlein, Deputy Veterans Service Officer (Page 1 of Exhibit 3). Page two, Eagan stated, shows a three percent cost of living increase without the market adjustments. Page three shows a cost of living increase of 2.75 percent with market adjustments and page four shows a 2.75 percent increase without market adjustments.

Workman suggested a two percent cost of living increase with merit increases following reviews and a market adjustment of \$2,000 each for the Veterans Service Officer and Deputy Veterans Service Officer.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to request the County Attorney's office to prepare a resolution regarding Directors salaries including a three percent cost of living increase, merit increases following reviews, market adjustment of \$2,000 each for the Veterans Service Officer and Deputy Veterans Service Officer and a market adjustment of \$3,200 for the Child Support Referee. Hudkins, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Workman and Schorr voted no. Motion carried.

7 STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board discussed the following relating to strategic planning:

- ▶ Press releases
- ▶ Development of a five year plan regarding the Community Mental Health Center (mandated versus unmandated services)
- ▶ Future legislation
- ▶ Lessening of lid restrictions

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to direct Deb Schorr, County Board Chair, Ray Stevens, as the liaison to the Community Mental Health Center, to meet with Health and Human Services regarding the provision of mental health services in Lancaster County after discussions with any individual or organizations they deem appropriate. Hudkins, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Workman was absent from voting. Motion carried.

8 STRATEGIC BUDGET PLANNING

Board consensus to continue with the same budget format for 2006.

9 BUDGET WRAP-UP

10 ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded adjournment of the Mid-Year Budget Retreat at 3 p.m.. Heier, Hudkins, Stevens and Schorr voted aye. Workman was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Patricia Owen
Chief Deputy County Clerk